

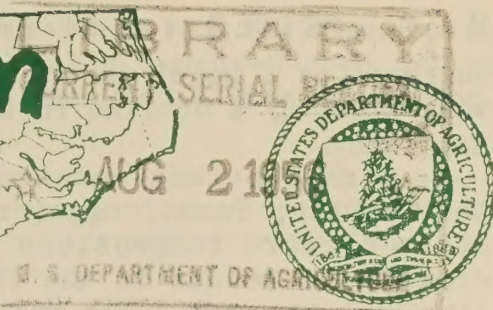
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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE



No. 211

RALEIGH, N. C.

JULY 11, 1956

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 3 POINTS

The 'All Farm Products' index of prices received by farmers at local markets increased 3 points (1 percent) during the month ended June 15, 1956. The June index compares with an index of 300 a year earlier and an index of 299 on June 15, 1954.

The All crops index at 313 was 4 points above the index of 309 on May 15, 1956. This increase was due mostly to an increase in prices received for fruits and commercial vegetables. The

(Continued on Page 2)

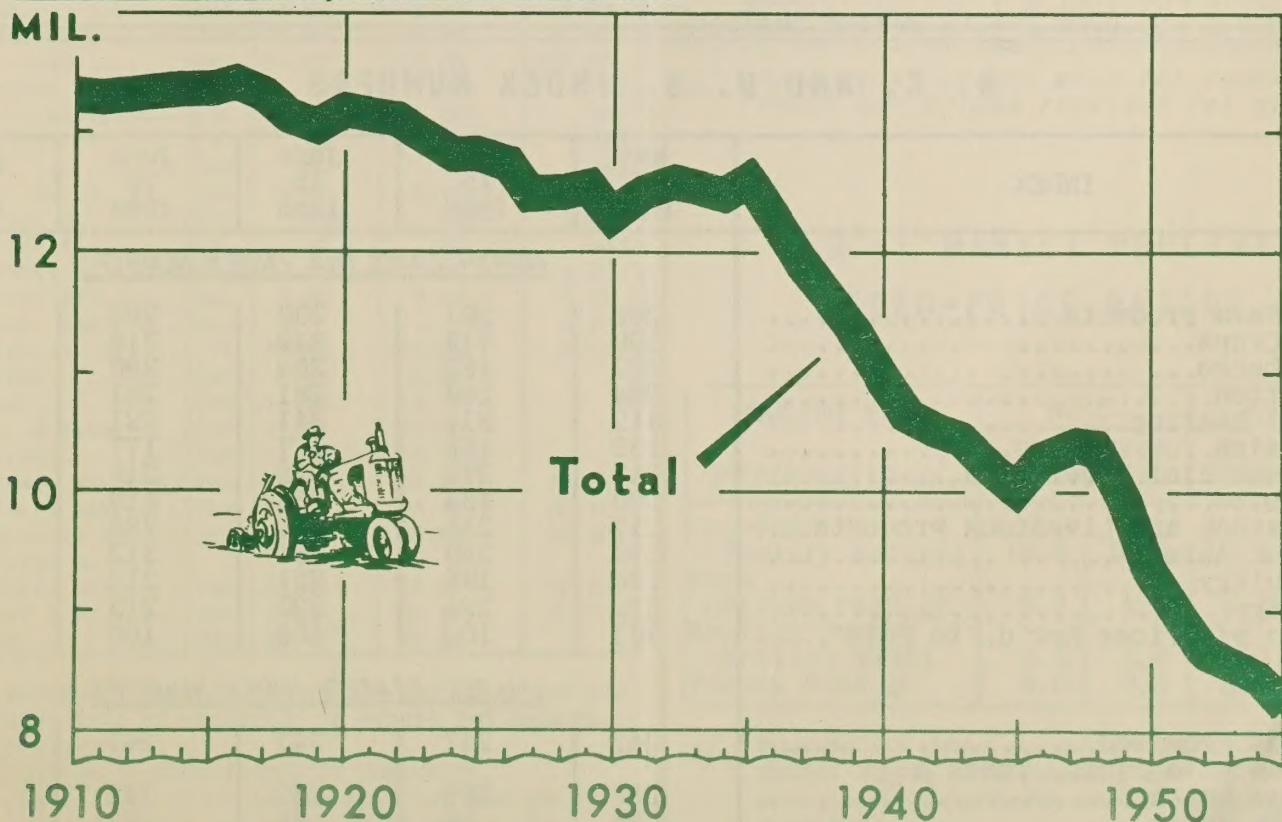
U. S. PRICES RECEIVED UP 2 PERCENT

PARITY INDEX UNCHANGED PARITY RATIO UP 1 POINT

Higher prices received by farmers for fruit, potatoes, and commercial vegetables were primarily responsible for a 2 percent increase in the Index of Prices Received by Farmers during the month ending June 15. The mid-June index, at 247 percent of its 1910-14 average, compared with 242 in May and 241 in June last year. The Crop Index,

(Continued on Page 2)

Workers on Farms Drop to a New Low in 1955



N. C. PRICES (Continued)

increase of 1 point in the grains index was offset by a decline in the oil bearing index.

Higher prices received for hogs, beef cattle, lambs, eggs, retail milk, and wool were responsible for the increase of 3 points in the livestock and livestock products index during mid June.

The ratio of North Carolina prices received to U. S. prices paid at 102 was 1 point above the May 15 ratio.

U. S. PRICES (Continued)

which increased 4 percent during the past month, was 8 percent above a year earlier. The Livestock and Livestock Products Index, decreased less than half of one percent during the month and was 3 percent below June last year.

Increases in retail prices of family living items offset a decline in prices paid by farmers for production items to leave the Parity Index (Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) unchanged in mid-June from a month earlier. At 286, the index was about 1 percent below the all-time June high reached in 1952.

With farm product prices up and the Parity Index steady, the Parity Ratio rose this month to 86, about 1 percent higher than a month earlier and June 15, 1955.

U. S. PEACH CROP LARGER THAN 1955 CROP

Total production of peaches in the United States in 1956 was estimated as of June 1 at 61.8 million bushels, 19 percent larger than the short 1955 crop but 8 percent below the 1945-54 average. In the 9 Southern States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas where the 1955 crop was a failure in most States because of spring freezes, production in 1956 was estimated at 10 million bushels, 24 percent below average. Spring freezes again severely cut the crop in Georgia and did considerable damage in a number of other Southern States. In the Pacific Northwest, the freeze of last November and cold weather in following months have reduced production considerably this year. Freezes in May also cut the crops in important northeastern States.

Production of clingstone peaches in California, which are used mostly for canning, is estimated at 23.3 million bushels, 3 percent above the 1955 crop. The California freestone crop is estimated at 10.9 million bushels, about 4 percent under 1955. These peaches are used fresh, canned, dried, and frozen.

With production up sharply this year in the Southern States and production of California freestones nearly

(Continued on Page 5)

N. C. AND U. S. INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX	May 15 1956	June 15 1956	June 15 1955	June 15 1954	June 15 1953
<u>NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS</u>					
All Farm Products.....	288	291	300	299	288
All Crops.....	309	313	319	316	298
Tobacco.....	387	387	394	390	363
Cotton.....	264	264	281	281	269
Oil Bearing.....	312	311	341	321	315
Grains.....	162	163	177	177	182
Commercial Vegetables.....	213	272	228	219	243
Fruits.....	360	434	358	410	312
Livestock and Livestock Products...	212	215	231	239	255
Meat Animals.....	230	240	264	312	309
Poultry.....	196	195	221	212	243
Dairy.....	222	224	220	215	227
Ratio of Prices Rec'd. to Paid*....	101	102	106	106	104
<u>UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS</u>					
Prices Received.....	242	247	241	247	257
Prices Paid, Int., Taxes & Wage Rates.....	286	286	282	282	277
Parity Ratio.....	85	86	85	88	93

* Ratio of N. C. Prices received to U. S. Prices paid.

SOME FEED PRICES UP OTHERS UNCHANGED

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for some feed items increased while others were unchanged during the month ended June 15, 1956. Average prices paid for all mixed dairy feed, 16 and 29 percent protein dairy feed, all the high protein feeds, middlings, and scratch grains were costing farmers slightly more than in May while the other feed items were unchanged from the previous month.

The local market poultry feed-price ratio for broiler feed and chicken feed declined during the month. The decline in the broiler feed ratio was due to

lower prices received for broilers. The egg feed ratio improved some during the month as result of higher egg prices.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	N. C.		U. S.
		MAY 15	JUNE 15	JUNE 15
		1956	1956	1956
<i>DOLLARS</i>				
CORN.....	BU.	1.40	1.47	1.42
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.03	1.96	1.93
OATS.....	BU.	.80	.67	.632
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.16	1.05	.931
RYE.....	BU.	2.00	1.85	.985
SORGHUM GRAINS...	CWT.	2.15	2.15	2.02
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.67	2.62	2.87
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.133	.133	.118
COTTON.....	LB.	.320	.320	.3229
COTTONSEED.....	TON	38.00	38.00	47.40
WOOL.....	LB.	.44	.46	.411
HOGS.....	CWT.	14.90	16.10	15.60
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	12.70	12.80	15.60
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	20.00	18.50	16.70
SHEEP.....	CWT.	5.00	5.00	5.60
LAMBS.....	CWT.	19.00	20.50	20.80
MILK COWS.....	HD.	99.00	95.00	154.00
CHICKENS, ALL....	LB.	.201	.186	.195
COM'L. BROILERS..	LB.	.200	.185	.199
TURKEYS.....	LB.	.32	.32	.298
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.40	.42	.363
MILK, WHLSE. <u>1/</u> ..	CWT.	5.15	5.15 <u>2/</u>	3.86
RETAIL <u>3/</u>	QT.	.210	.219	2.07
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.47	.46	.583
POTATOES.....	BU.	-	2.30	2.65
SWEETPOTATOES...	BU.	2.60	2.60	3.17
APPLES, COM'L....	BU.	-	-	3.23
LESPEDEZA SEED...	CWT.	10.00	10.00	8.54
KOREAN.....	CWT.	8.80	8.80	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	11.30	11.30	-
COM. & TENN....	CWT.	17.00	17.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	14.70	14.70	-
HAY, ALL BALED <u>4/</u>	TON	29.20	27.40	19.80
ALFALFA HAY.....	TON	34.90	33.30	20.70
LESPEDEZA HAY...	TON	32.00	30.00	22.40
SOYBEAN & COWPEA HAY.....	TON	28.60	27.00	26.70
PEANUT VINE.....	TON	20.20	18.50	20.70
OTHER.....	TON	26.70	25.00	-

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	N. C.		U. S.	
	May 15 1956	June 15 1956	May 15 1956	June 15 1956
<i>Dollars</i>				
Mixed Dairy Feed				
Under 29% Protein				
All.....	3.85	3.90	3.75	3.73
16% Protein.....	3.70	3.75	3.69	3.66
18% Protein.....	3.90	3.90	3.70	3.68
20% Protein.....	4.05	4.05	3.95	3.93
24% Protein.....	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05
29% & Over.....	4.55	4.60	4.43	4.43
High Protein Feeds				
Linseed Meal....	-	-	4.24	4.26
Soybean Meal....	4.30	4.35	4.20	4.29
Cottonseed Meal.	3.40	3.50	3.71	3.72
Meat Scrap.....	4.80	4.85	4.75	4.81
Grain By-Products				
Bran.....	3.40	3.40	3.18	3.00
Middlings.....	3.60	3.65	3.29	3.16
Corn Meal.....	3.90	3.90	3.64	3.66
Corn Gluten.....	-	-	3.46	3.49
Poultry Feed				
Laying Mash.....	4.85	4.85	4.57	4.57
Scratch Grain...	4.20	4.30	4.14	4.14
Broiler Growing Mash.....	5.10	5.10	5.02	5.06
Poultry Ration 1/.	3.98	3.99	3.62	3.63

1/ Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grain.

LOCAL MARKET POULTRY FEED-PRICE RATIOS

POULTRY FEED PRICE RATIO 1/	N. C.		U. S.	
	May 1956	June 1956	May 1956	June 1956
Egg-Feed (Poultry Ration)	10.0	10.5	10.4	10.0
Farm Chicken Feed 2/	5.3	4.9	5.3	4.9
Broiler-Feed (Broiler Mash)	3.9	3.6	4.2	3.9
Turkey Feed 2/	8.0	8.0	8.5	8.2

1/ Pounds of feed equal in value to one dozen eggs, one pound farm chickens, one pound broilers and one pound turkeys.

2/ Poultry ration.

1/ Estimated average prices for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Sold by farmers direct to consumers.

4/ The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds including an allowance for minor kinds.

RECORD SPRING PIG CROP FOR N. C.

North Carolina's 1956 spring pig crop was the largest of record. Pigs saved from spring farrowings (Dec. 1, 1955 -- June 1, 1956) amounted to 1,126,000, which was 4,000 above the previous record spring crop of 1,122,000 produced in 1955. Sows farrowing this spring totaled 168,000 which was two percent above the 165,000 farrowing in the spring of 1955. Pigs saved per litter at 6.7 was just short of the record 6.8 average for the same period a year ago.

According to producers' reported intentions, fall farrowings for this year (June 1 - Dec. 1) are expected to be about the same as for the fall of 1955. If these intentions materialize, 117,000 sows will farrow in the state this fall, which would be a little over seven percent above the average number farrowing in the fall during the 10-year period, 1945-54. Assuming that pigs saved per litter, with allowance for trend, will adhere to the 10-year average, the 1956 fall pig crop for the state will amount to around 784,000 pigs. The combined spring and fall pig crop would thus approximate 1,910,000 head, which would be 1.5 percent above the State's pig crop of 1955 and 18 percent above the 1945-54 average.

UNITED STATES

The 1956 spring pig crop totaled 53,085,000 head, a decline of 8 percent from the spring of 1955. The number of

sows farrowing this spring totaled 7,650,000 sows which was also 8 percent less than the 8,359,000 sows farrowing last spring. The number of pigs saved per litter was 6.94, establishing a new record for spring farrowing and compares with 6.90 pigs per litter in 1955. Reports on breeding intentions indicate a total of 5,163,000 sows to farrow this fall, this would be 7 percent less than the number farrowing last fall. If these intentions materialize and the number of pigs saved per litter equals the 10-year average, with an allowance for upward trend, the 1956 fall pig crop would be about 35 million head. The combined spring and fall pig crops for 1956 would then be about 88 million head. This would be 8 percent less than last year and only slightly below the 1945-54 average.

The number of hogs 6 months old and over on farms and ranches June 1 was 1 percent below a year ago.

DAIRY OUTLOOK

Production of milk in May was restricted by retarded pastures. The 13.0 billion pounds produced was only 1 percent over a year earlier compared with a gain of 5 percent for the four preceeding months. In early June, production increased as pastures improved in many sections. Output for the year will be around 127 billion pounds compared with 123.5 billion, the previous record set in 1955.

(Continued on Page 5)

N. C. AND U. S. PIG CROP

ITEM	SPRING CROP (DECEMBER 1- JUNE 1)				FALL CROP (JUNE 1- DECEMBER 1)			
	10-Year Average	1955	1956	1956 As %	10-Year Average	1955	1956	1956 As %
	1945-54			Of '55	1945-54			Of '55
	(000)	(000)	(000)	%	(000)	(000)	(000)	%
NORTH CAROLINA								
Sows Farrowing	140	165	168	102	109	117	117	100
Pigs Saved	901	1,122	1,126	100	717	760	-	-
Pigs Per Litter	6.4	6.8	6.7	-	-	-	-	-
UNITED STATES								
Sows Farrowing	8,327	8,359	7,650	92	5,208	5,569	5,163	93
Pigs Saved	53,923	57,690	53,085	92	219	37,914	-	-
Pigs Per Litter	6.48	6.90	6.94	-	-	-	-	-

DAIRY OUTLOOK *(Continued)*

Fluid milk consumption in Federal order markets has continued to show a significant increase over a year earlier. Consumption of cream and cream mixtures also has increased in recent months after several years of declines. Consumption of skimmed milk items continues to show a sizable increase. As a result of increased fluid use, the amount of milk manufactured has been below a year earlier in the last several weeks. About the same amount of butter, more cheese, and less nonfat dry milk were purchased by CCC in May and early June than a year earlier.

Prices of manufactured dairy products were increased soon after price supports were raised but have been steady since. Prices to farmers for all milk sold to plants and dealers in May were up by 24 cents per hundredweight over a year earlier, or about 6.6 percent. This reflects the increase in prices for fluid uses in a number of markets as well as the higher support level for manufacturing milk. The butterfat price also was up 3 percent from a year earlier. Cash receipts from the sale of dairy products have been showing a sizable increase over early 1955. For 1956 as a whole, cash receipts from dairy products will approach the record of 4.6 billion dollars reached in 1952.

The increase in prices for feed concentrates has led to less favorable milk-feed price relationships than in the last quarter of 1955 and the first quarter of 1956. Milk also has become a little less favorable relative to hogs. But the relationships continue above average for dairymen. With firm prices for milk in prospect, conditions generally favor continued large production of milk.

PEACH CROP *(Continued)*

as large as last year, supplies of fresh market peaches will be much heavier during June, July and early August than in this period of 1955. Prices for these early-season peaches can be expected to average somewhat under the unusually high prices of 1955. From mid-summer on, supplies of fresh peaches probably will not be quite as large as in this time of 1955. Shipments of early peaches from California and Southern States to fresh markets started in late May.

POULTRY AND EGG OUTLOOK

Egg prices in early June were at about the lowest 1956 levels to that date, following a price decline that began about the second week in May. However, most egg prices continued above corresponding 1955 prices. The prospect is for prices to rise seasonally and to remain above last year until late summer or early fall.

The mid-May U. S. average price received by farmers was 37.5 cents per dozen, down a cent from the month before but well above the 33.8 cents of a year earlier.

To early June, no sustained periods of hot weather had occurred in the Midwest or Northeast. The mild temperatures sustained both egg production and quality in May and early June, thereby contributing to the price weakness for top quality eggs.

Broiler prices to farmers averaged 21.1 cents per pound (live) in mid-May, compared with an average of 21.0 cents for the preceding 4 months, and 27 cents in mid-May 1955. Slaughter in April and May was well above the same months of 1955, holding prices below a year ago.

Weekly broiler chick placements in early June were higher than those which provided slaughter supplies in April and May. However, strengthening seasonal demand for broilers and firmer prices for red meats may offset the price effects of larger supplies.

The seasonally small marketings of heavy-breed turkeys, including breeders, from early 1956 to early June sold at higher prices than young turkeys last fall and winter. This is partly a result of the small storage holdings of turkey -- 40 million pounds of June 1, the smallest for the date since 1949. The number of turkeys now growing for slaughter later this year is a record.

Prices received by farmers for early summer vegetables are expected to average at least as high as those of a year earlier. June 1 estimates indicate about the same total tonnage as last year.

Potato production this summer will be down materially from last year unless shipments from late States are considerably heavier. This indicates substantially higher prices than last year.

RECORD MAY SLAUGHTER FOR N. C.

NORTH CAROLINA

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during May amounted to 25,337,000 pounds liveweight. This was a record for the month, exceeding the previous high of 23,494,000 pounds established in May a year ago by 1,843,000 pounds, or 7.8 percent. By species the May slaughter was made up of 9,623,000 pounds of cattle, 942,000 pounds of calves, 8,000 pounds of sheep and lambs, and 14,764,000 pounds of hogs. Sheep and lambs, and calves made up less of the total kill than they did in May of 1955. but total liveweight of cattle and hogs slaughtered were at an all-time high record for the month, more than offsetting the decrease for other species.

UNITED STATES

Red meat production by commercial slaughter plants in the United States for the month of May totaled 2,148 million pounds. May output was 2 percent above the 2,106 million pounds in April and 9 percent above the 1,964 million pounds in May 1955.

Beef production for the month of May totaled 1,195 million pounds, 7 percent more than April and 11 percent more than May 1955. There were 2,210,-

700 head of cattle slaughtered in May. This was 7 percent greater than the 2,068,500 head slaughtered in April and 5 percent greater than the 2,102,100 head killed in May a year ago. The average live weight of cattle slaughtered in May was 964 pounds, which was 6 pounds lighter than a month ago but 35 pounds heavier than a year ago.

The number of calves slaughtered in May was estimated at 951,200 head. This was just 7,000 head less than a month ago and 10,900 head less than May a year ago. Veal output in May totaled 121 million pounds, 8 percent more than the previous month and 3 percent more than the same month last year. Slaughter calves in May averaged 229 pounds live weight. This compares with 210 pounds in April and 222 pounds in May last year.

May hog slaughter, estimated at 5,875,600 head, was 6 percent under the 6,266,800 head killed in April but was 15 percent above the 5,097,800 head killed in May last year. Pork production for the month totaled 778 million pounds -- 4 percent less than a month ago but 10 percent more than the output of May last year. Lard production in May totaled 199 million pounds, down 4 percent from a month earlier but up 10 percent from a year earlier. The

(Continued on Page 7)

N. C. AND U. S. LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER *

SPECIES	MAY				JANUARY - MAY			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight		Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
	<i>Thous. Head</i>		<i>Thous. Lbs.</i>		<i>Thous. Head</i>		<i>Thous. Lbs.</i>	
N. C.								
Cattle	12.3	12.1	9,496	9,623	62.8	59.1	48,793	46,877
Calves	5.3	4.9	967	942	24.3	21.6	4,334	3,967
Sheep & Lambs	.1	.1	10	8	.4	.3	37	25
Hogs	58.0	66.0	13,021	14,764	293.0	320.0	64,733	71,356
TOTAL	75.7	83.1	23,494	25,337	380.5	401.0	117,897	122,225
U. S.	<i>Million Head</i>		<i>Million Lbs.</i>		<i>Million Head</i>		<i>Million Lbs.</i>	
Cattle	2.1	2.2	1,954	2,131	10.1	10.6	9,442	10,341
Calves	1.0	1.0	213	218	4.9	4.9	1,013	1,027
Sheep & Lambs	1.4	1.2	132	113	6.7	6.7	665	660
Hogs	5.1	5.9	1,256	1,388	29.8	34.9	7,140	8,088
TOTAL	9.6	10.3	3,555	3,850	51.5	57.1	18,260	20,116

* includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

LIVESTOCK (Continued)

amount of lard rendered per 100 pounds of live weight of hogs slaughtered was 14.3 pounds, the same as a month ago and compares with 14.4 pounds a year ago.

The number of sheep and lambs slaughtered in May was estimated at 1,-218,600 head. This was 4 percent less than the 1,271,900 head slaughtered a month earlier and 11 percent less than the 1,367,100 head slaughtered in May 1955. Mutton and lamb production for May was 54 million pounds, 10 percent less than last month and 16 percent less than the same month of 1955. Slaughter sheep averaged 92 pounds live weight - 7 pounds lighter than a month earlier and 4 pounds lighter than a year earlier.

Poultry slaughter during May totaled 352 million pounds, ready-to-cook basis. This was 9 percent above April, 21 percent above May last year, and 45 percent above the 10-year average for the month.

A record carryover of about 43 million tons of feed grains is in prospect for 1956-57, a 10 percent increase over last year. With a near-average growing season, this would mean another big supply of feed grains for the 1956-57 feeding year.

Large quantities of wheat moved out in May and June, bringing total exports for 1955-56 to an estimated 330 million bushels. This is 55 million above last year and the largest since 1951-52. The carryover on July 1 will probably be about 1,030 million bushels, about the same as a year ago.

U. S. FARMER'S SHARE OF CONSUMER'S FOOD DOLLAR

April 1956.....	40 Percent
March 1956.....	39 Percent
April 1955.....	42 Percent

N. C. SEASON'S AVERAGE WOOL PRICE

N. C. farmers received an average price of 48 cents per pound for shorn wool sold during the 1955 marketing year (April 1955 - March 1956). This was the lowest season average since 1947, and compared with 53 cents for the 1954 and 1953 seasons.

U. S. WOOL PRICES 1955 MARKETING YEAR

Prices received by farmers for shorn wool sold during the 1955 marketing year (April 1955 - March 1956) averaged 42.8 cents per pound. This was the lowest season average since 1947, and compared with 53.2 cents for the 1954 season, and with 54.9 cents for 1953.

Prices received by farmers for wool averaged 46.5 cents per pound in April 1955, the first month of the 1955 marketing year. Prices declined each month through November, increased slightly in December, declined to the low point for the season of 37.8 cents in January, and then increased to 40.3 cents in March, the last month of the marketing year.

WOOL: AVERAGE PRICE PER POUND RECEIVED BY FARMERS, BY MONTHS, APRIL 1955 - MARCH 1956 1/

1955									1956			
Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Wt. Av.
<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>
NORTH CAROLINA												
50	46	48	42	42	42	45	46	46	45	44	43	48
UNITED STATES												
46.5	45.6	45.0	44.9	42.7	41.6	39.0	38.3	39.4	37.8	39.3	40.3	42.8

1/ Average local Market Price for wool sold does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

FARM REPORT

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COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES 1/		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	May 15 1956	June 15 1956	May 15 1956	June 15 1956	May 15 1956	June 15 1956
	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Cotton, Lb.....	.3196	.3229	.3544	.3544	90	91
Wheat, Bu.....	2.00	1.93	2.42	2.42	83	80
Corn, Bu.....	1.39	1.42	1.77	1.77	79	80
Oats, Bu.....	.634	.632	.861	.861	74	73
Barley, Bu.....	.963	.931	1.35	1.35	71	69
Rye, Bu.....	1.01	.985	1.69	1.69	60	58
Beef Cattle, Cwt.....	15.40	15.60	21.60	21.60	71	72
Hogs, Cwt.....	15.50	15.60	21.40	21.40	72	73
Lambs, Cwt.....	21.50	21.80	23.70	23.70	91	88
Chickens, All, Lb....	.207	.195	.286	.286	72	68
Eggs, Doz.....	.375	.363	.463	.463	89 <u>4/</u>	85 <u>4/</u>
Milk, Whlse. Cwt. <u>2/</u>	3.86	3.86 <u>3/</u>	4.69	4.69	91 <u>4/</u>	91 <u>4/</u>

1/ Effective parity prices as computed currently in months indicated using base period prices and indexes then in effect.

2/ Estimated average price for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.